

**STB VOTING CONFERENCE**  
**September 24, 2004**  
**10:00 a.m., Board Hearing Room**

**CHAIRMAN NOBER'S OPENING STATEMENT:**

**I want to thank you all for coming to this voting conference. As you can tell from the docket, we have quite a few cases before us today. I note that the staff has put in a lot of time and effort into the preparation for this voting conference and I want to thank them for all their hard work. I also want to thank my fellow commissioners for their cooperation in preparing for this voting conference.**

**As many of you know we have a few rate case reconsideration motions currently pending. Today we will be considering the motions for reconsideration that were filed in the Texas Municipal Power Agency. v. BNSF case. By the end of the year, I intend to have all of the pending rate case reconsideration motions considered and decided by the Board. You can expect the Board to hold a voting conference about once a month through the end of the year.**

**In addition, this fall the Board will be very active hearing oral arguments. Next week we will hold an oral argument in the Arizona Public Service Co. v. BNSF rate case. Next month we intend to hold an oral argument in the Southern Motor Carrier case, and in November we intend to hold oral arguments in the Arizona Electric Power Cooperative v. UP and BNSF rate case and the Guam v. Sea-Land case.**

**Let me now turn to my fellow commissioners for any opening statement they may have before turning to the matters at hand.**